

# The American Observer

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY LIBRARY  
RECEIVED NOV 6 1942

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. -- James Monroe

VOLUME XII, NUMBER 10

WASHINGTON, D. C.

NOVEMBER 9, 1942

## Education Week Is Observed In Nation

Schools Adjust Schedules to Meet Challenge of War and Reconstruction

### NEW RESPONSIBILITIES SEEN

Young People Must Prepare for Citizenship Duties if Postwar Chaos Is to Be Avoided

Education Week is being observed throughout the nation at this time—from November 8 to 15. A like period is set aside each year. During Education Week, students, teachers, administrators, boards of education examine their schools, see what they are achieving, inquire along what lines progress may be made. They also invite the public to become acquainted with the schools in every community so that they may cooperate in the educational work which is being done.

Those who observe Education Week this year will have the same purposes in mind. What makes this year of particular importance now is that new and difficult problems confront education as a result of the war. The schools also have in many respects greater opportunities for service. Everyone interested in education—teachers and students alike—will, therefore, give increased attention during the current week to the new problems which the schools face.

### Education at War

Among the problems thrown upon education by the war are these:

1. Many teachers have been taken into the military services or have been drawn into war industry. This throws additional burdens upon those who are left. The burdens are made even harder by the fact that new duties have arisen. More work must therefore be done by smaller teaching staffs.

2. Questions have arisen as to how the schools should meet the war emergency. It is generally recognized that we cannot have "business as usual." But what changes should be made? This question has thrown many school systems into confusion.

3. The minds of students are in considerable confusion. Many of the boys know that in a little while they will probably be in the armed services. Others are already being tempted by the opportunity to work in war industries at high wages. There is in some quarters a feeling that there isn't much use to spend time in getting an education during a period when war prevents the customary uses of education, such, for example, in many cases, as going on to college.

The first of these problems, that relating to the teachers, is dealt with very ably in a pamphlet written for the Commission on Teacher Education and published by the American Council on Education, Washington, D. C. It is called *Teacher Education* (Concluded on page 8)



FITZPATRICK IN ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH  
Democracy's essential light

## The Long Armistice

By Walter E. Myer

On November 11, 1918, the First World War ended with the signing of an armistice. At that time it was thought that Germany had lost the war. The terrible ordeal was over and it had resulted in victory! So people thought in all the democratic nations, and no one who lived through those exciting days will ever forget the wild rejoicing with which the world heard the glad news. The armistice had stopped the fighting, and it was to be followed by a treaty of peace and other arrangements which would make wars impossible.

But, as it turned out, these arrangements were not made. There was no settled peace in the world—only an armistice—only rest from the fighting—only a breathing spell during which the antagonists might prepare to resume the struggle. The Germans took advantage of the opportunity. The late victors did not. They stood aside, failed to agree upon any consistent program. Our own country had two choices before it. America might have joined with the other nations in the effort to cure the causes of war, to insure weak nations against aggression, to build a permanent structure of peace. If she did not wish to do that, she might have stood aloof while wars were brewing in the old world, might have said she would take no part in the shaping of European and Asiatic affairs, might have decided to let wars come on if they must, that she would not go into old world disputes but would build in the Americas an invincible defense so that, though wars might engulf the rest of the world, they could not touch us because of our invincible power.

We Americans might have taken one of those courses, but we took neither. We refused to cooperate wholeheartedly in the solving of old world problems. We refused to take part in plans to guarantee peace throughout the world. But, seeing that peace was not being guaranteed, that wars were brewing throughout the world, we failed to build an unshakable defense in this hemisphere. The war clouds gathered, but we remained weak, unready. War struck and still we were unready. When war reached out and fell upon our own country, we were only partially prepared. Now, almost a year after war came to us, we are still on the defensive—not because we have been inactive during the 11 months of war, but because we did not use the years of the long armistice to get ready either for war or for organized peace.

There is no use to cry over spilled milk, but let us not spill any more. The armistice is over and we are at war again. We won the first phase of the great war of the twentieth century, but lost the peace. Now that great war is resumed. It is a tougher war than the other one—a harder war for us to win. But win we must and shall, though the cost will be staggering. Let us resolve upon this Armistice Day that, when the war is won there shall be not merely another armistice, but a peace—a peace established by free, informed, reasonable people who have learned the arts of statesmanship.

## Battle Raging For Control Of Africa

Great Stakes Involved in New Allied Campaign to Drive Axis from Continent

### WAR OVER MEDITERRANEAN

Victory Would Reopen Shorter Supply Route for War Fronts of United Nations

As the month of October drew to a close, the war seemed to be entering a new phase. The three most important theaters remained the Stalingrad front, the South Pacific, and North Africa. Upon the outcome of the battles raging in these far removed theaters, the length of the war will certainly be determined. Even if the Russians are eventually forced to yield Stalingrad, the valiant struggle to hold that city will go down as one of the most heroic defenses in history.

The Battle of Stalingrad remains a defensive action, a desperate attempt to stem the Nazi tide of conquest. In this respect it differs from the other two theaters, for both in the Solomons and in North Africa the United Nations have undertaken offensive campaigns, attempts to drive the Axis forces from territory they had previously occupied. While it is true that the Japanese attacks upon Guadalcanal have put the American forces on the defensive for the time being, the whole campaign is offensive in character inasmuch as it marks the beginning of the attack upon enemy-held territory.

### Campaigns Related

The same is true of the new drive in North Africa. After several weeks of relative quiet in Egypt, the British and their allies have taken the initiative in trying to drive Marshal Rommel and his Nazi and Fascist legions from the African continent. This is the third major offensive the British have launched in North Africa since the entry of Italy into the war in June 1940. The other two drives failed of their purpose. The present campaign presents great difficulties to the United Nations, but the British leaders, Generals Alexander and Montgomery, appear determined to finish the job this time.

Although greatly removed from each other in distance, the campaigns in North Africa and the Solomons are by no means unrelated in fact. What happens on the Egyptian front during the next few weeks will have a bearing upon our success in the South Pacific. This is an indication of the global nature of the present war, the effect of one theater upon other war fronts. Just as our ability to hold the Japanese in the South Pacific affects their ability to attack Siberia, which in turn has a relation to the Battle of Stalingrad, so the success of the United Nations drive in North Africa will have a bearing upon the struggle in the South Pacific.

(Concluded on page 7)





U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

## Planes in This War

## The P-40 Series of Fighters

By Captain John Gordon Studebaker, U. S. Army Air Forces

THE lopsided score established by the Flying Tiger pilots in Burma thrilled every red-blooded American. The story of their heroic battles against numerically superior Japanese squadrons is a story of flying prowess and it is also the story of a great fighter plane—the Curtiss P-40. It was the first American fighter plane to be mass-produced, and has seen action in all the major battle areas.

The P-40 series "A" to "C" (called *Tomahawks* by the British), the series "D" and "E" (called *Kittyhawks*), and the latest P-40F *Warhawk* are distinguishable by the deep, barrel-like air scoop located beneath the engine. While the earlier models did not carry sufficient fire power, the later series have plenty of punch. With six synchronized .50-caliber machine guns, the *Warhawk* can virtually cut enemy planes to pieces.

It is equipped with leakproof tanks and fuel system, armor plate, bullet-proof glass, belly tank for extra fuel, and full pilot protection. Although it was originally designed as a medium altitude fighter, the *Warhawk*, equipped with improved Allison and American-built Rolls Royce engines, is performing efficiently as a bomber interceptor at levels above 15,000 feet.

Playing a new and unsuspected role in the Libyan Desert, *Kittyhawks* some weeks ago made a major contribution in the smashing British counteroffensive which brought Field Marshal Rommel's drive on Alexandria to a sharp halt. Equipped with bomb-racks and utilizing the regular gunsights as bombsights, the *Kittyhawk* became the *Kittybomber* and as such was used with marked success against Nazi tanks, mechanized ground troops, and aircraft.

According to reports from Egypt, the *Kittybomber* is fast enough at medium altitudes to take on any fighter built, even with bombs in the racks. Because of their stamina and versatility, our constantly improved P-40's will no doubt be in there fighting until final victory is achieved.

(Editor's note: As we reported in last week's issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, the Office of War Information's recent survey of American aircraft stated that P-40's are not efficient fighters at high altitudes. Captain Studebaker's article, of course, brings out the point that P-40's were designed as medium altitude fighters, although the latest model of the series has been corrected to permit it to fight at higher levels.)

## Baldwin on Pacific War

IT is doubtful whether any newspaperman in the United States has had more influence on the strategy of the war than has Hanson Baldwin, military editor of the New York Times. His penetrating analyses of our military effort and our war strategy have earned for him the reputation of being America's No. 1 military critic, standing head and shoulders above his nearest rivals.

Recently Mr. Baldwin returned from a 14,000 mile flight by way of Hawaii to the Solomons, where our first offensive action in this war is still being bitterly contested. In a series of eight vigorous articles in the Times he has sized up our position in the Pacific after almost a year of combat, appraising the importance of the Solomons campaign, analyzing the lessons to be learned from that campaign, and warning of the weaknesses in our strategy and action which must be corrected before we can hope for final victory against the enemy. Here is a summary of his findings.

For almost a year the Japanese hold on the Western Pacific has never been seriously challenged. Although we are now for the first time taking the offensive, the Battle of the Solomons can only be viewed as the first of a series of steps, which eventually will take us to Tokyo. Our leaders in the Pacific are becoming increasingly aware that the war in the Pacific cannot be won easily or quickly; the Japanese has proved himself to be a dangerous and worthy foe.

Moreover, the enemy has had and continues to have several important advantages over us. He has the advantage of an interior position which gives him short supply lines. He has a superiority in quantity of naval force, and perhaps also of air force. He is possessed of an unyielding belief in Japan's invincibility, and an amazing will to win or die.

Thus, Mr. Baldwin believes, we dare not allow Japan to consolidate her gains in the Pacific while we concentrate on Hitler, for if we do it may well take years to break her hold. We cannot fight a delaying action—we must continue to attack. We are, of course, now doing this in the Solomons, but we are fighting "on a shoe-string" against virtually the entire Japanese naval force.

However, says Mr. Baldwin, the days of greatest danger in the Pacific are likely over, if we can correct

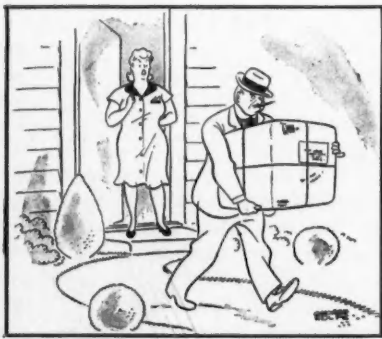
certain of our own weaknesses. We now have a clear-cut superiority in quality (if not yet in quantity) of air power. The Japanese have nothing to equal our medium bombers or our mighty Flying Fortresses and Consolidated B-24's. Even the much-vaunted Japanese Zero has met its match in the Army's Lockheed P-38, Bell P-39, and Curtiss P-40, to say nothing of the Navy's Grumman F4F Wildcat, which is easily the best carrier-based fighter in the world. The box score of air losses in the Solomons now stands at about five to one in our favor. Moreover, our effort to secure naval superiority is increasing, and Mr. Baldwin believes this effort will make itself felt by the first of the year.

"We probably have as much to fear from our own weaknesses and our own mistakes as we do from the enemy," says Mr. Baldwin, listing leadership as our weakest point. He thinks our commanders in the Pacific have often been overcautious; during the first two months of the Solomons campaign, for example, there was not nearly enough of an offensive spirit, and as a result we lost heavily in ships. It might be noted in passing that Mr. Baldwin is credited in some quarters with having influenced the recent shift of command in the western Pacific.

Another serious weakness, according to Mr. Baldwin, is a spirit of criticism and friction between the various armed forces. He points out that this spirit is not found on the fighting fronts to any degree, but rather behind the lines. He credits it partly to a point of view carried over from the sports rivalry between West Point and Annapolis. He points out that this rivalry and friction have been intensified by inaccurate reporting of the struggle in the Pacific, which has at times given credit where credit was not due.

Finally Mr. Baldwin suggests that the arbitrary division of the Pacific area between General MacArthur, who commands Australia and the waters immediately around it, and Admiral Nimitz, whose command embraces most of the Pacific Ocean, including the Solomons and the Hawaiian Islands, complicates the problem of offensive action. So far it has not proved to be an insurmountable problem, but under lesser men than these two it might become serious.

## SMILES



"Now, don't forget to mail it!"

WOLFE IN SATURDAY EVENING POST

A recruit failed to salute a captain. The captain followed him inside and demanded: "Don't you recognize the uniform?"

"Yes, sir," replied the recruit, feeling the captain's coat. "Pretty nice uniform, but look at this thing they issued me."

—GRIT

"My boy, when I see how you spend it, I'm afraid that you don't know the value of money."

"Sure I do. It's just about half of what it was a few years ago."

—PATHFINDER

"Of course, I wouldn't say anything about her unless I could say something good. And, oh, boy, is this good..."

—SCRIPPAGE

Teacher: "Give me a sentence with an object."

Pupil: "You're very beautiful."

Teacher: "What is the object?"

Pupil: "A good grade."

—SCRIPPAGE

Judge: "The next person who interrupts the proceedings in this court will be sent home."

Prisoner: "Hip, hip, hooray, Judge."

—SELECTED

"How long did it take your wife to learn to drive?"

"Well, let's see... it will be ten years this coming November."

—CASLON COMMENTS



U. S. NAVY

Aircraft carriers have played an important part in the Solomons battle



# War Demands Sacrifices by All

By WALTER E. MYER

RECENT discussions of price, salary, and wage fixing and of possible limitations on profits have produced some disagreements and misunderstandings. Charges affecting the patriotism of different classes of the population have occasionally been made. Farmers have been accused in some quarters of trying to push the prices of their products unnecessarily high and of doing this without regard to the welfare of the country as a whole. In other quarters, there have been complaints that workers are receiving exorbitant wages at the expense of the government or the public. We also hear frequently about the large profits made in certain industries, and there are occasional charges of war profiteering.

There are, of course, individuals in every occupation who are out to get all they can regardless of the public interest. There are individuals who actually do obtain more than they need or deserve. This is not true, however, of the great majority in any group. We have all heard stories of the very high wages that some workmen are receiving, but if one goes out among the workers in any industry, he is not likely to find that many of the families have more than enough for a good living.

And as one becomes acquainted with the workers, he will find that

factories close or change to other kinds of production. Furthermore, if a man receives profits which appear exorbitant, it must be remembered that taxes will take away most of his income.

The farmer is always in a difficult and uncertain position. He depends not only upon prices, which in the past have changed rapidly, but upon weather conditions which no one can control. Within the last week I have seen at first hand some of the difficulties experienced by farmers. I happen to own a farm, the chief crop of which is corn. A very good corn crop was in prospect this year, one which promised to pay the expenses of the farm with enough in addition for a small return on the investment. But last week there were heavy rains, coming at the end of a very rainy season, and I now find that the corn is ruined. It cannot be sold and the year's income has vanished.

My memories of a boyhood on the farm remind me that such an experience is not unusual to farmers. They are engaged in a very hazardous occupation. If they make a little one year, they may lose it the next, and frequently, as at present, it is impossible for one to obtain enough competent labor to handle his crops without loss. When the farmers recently were asking that their prices be fixed at a higher level than was proposed, they were asking for what seemed to them to be justice.

As a matter of fact, people in every occupation, however patriotic they may be, are always, with the best of motives, trying to improve their situation. They are likely to feel at any given time that, in comparison with other classes, they suffer some injustices.

There are times, however, when it is safe to work for the correction of injustices, and there are other times when it is not. At the present time we are in the midst of a dangerous war and we are threatened with inflation. It seems necessary now to freeze conditions as they are. Otherwise, if each group is attempting to raise its prices

or its profits or its wages, there is likely to be an upward movement of prices all along the line. This might lead to inflation which, in turn, would create such a financial crisis as seriously to interfere with the winning of the war.

No one will argue that wages and farm prices and profits are now where they ought to be permanently. Justice no doubt requires that as soon as possible certain changes be made. These changes, however, can wait until the war is over. This means, of course, that some people, some groups, will be hit harder than others. But it is impossible to have equality of sacrifice in a war. The heaviest sacrifice, of course, falls upon those who actually do the fighting.

But though we try to hold prices and wages at their present levels, there are certain conditions which must be corrected—certain conditions, for example, in the farming industry. The farmers must be guaranteed workers. One way to do it

would be to allow farm wages to go as high as the wages are in the cities and then to let the farmers secure high prices for their products to make up for paying high wages. But this might set off a general rise of prices which we do not want. Consequently, other methods are being worked out. Farm labor is now to be deferred from the draft. Farm workers are being told, in effect, that they need not go into the Army if they continue to work on the farms, but if they leave the farms, they must enter the armed forces. This may give the farmers the workers they require. If not, it may be necessary to conscript men and put them on the farms just as they are now put into the Army. By one means or another, the nation must secure an adequate food supply.

Meanwhile, those who cast doubts upon the patriotism of any particular group are falsifying the facts and are tending to stir up a disunity which all truly patriotic Americans should seek to avoid.

Sometimes, though not always, various groups act selfishly for their own interests. Any group which has power is inclined to do this, but there

APPRECIATE  
AMERICA



COURTESY APPRECIATE AMERICA, INC.  
Lesson for Americans

is no reason to think that any one group of the population is less public-spirited than other classes. The average citizen, whether he is a farmer, worker, business or professional man, is not looking for special privileges or for unfair advantages. If these average citizens were to take a more active interest in politics, supporting legislators who serve broad national interests and condemning those who do not, the welfare of all the people would be better served.



A burden we will all have to carry  
FITZPATRICK IN ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

they have problems which outsiders think little about. Take the case of the construction workers. On paper, their wages seem very high, but when the weather is bad they, or many of them, do not work. Their pay is not regular. Furthermore, the highest wages are to be found in the war-boom industries and where these industries are located it is very hard to obtain living quarters. Rents are exceedingly high. So are other necessities of life. The cost of living is so high that the real income is not what it seems. Nor is that all. Most of the highest paid workers are employed in industries which are temporary in nature. Unemployment looms as a probability when the war is over. Thus, even the workers who seem to be highly paid in many cases do not have security.

The businessman is also insecure. He is producing things that will not be needed when the war is over. Even though he makes relatively large profits now they may be quickly used up when the war work ceases and

## Straight Thinking on the War

By CLAY COSS

I LISTENED a few days ago to a discussion of the part the United States should play after the war in the attempt to insure permanent peace. One of the speakers urged that this country should participate actively with other nations in working out plans for the peaceful settlement of international disputes, that we should help to solve the problems which are likely to lead to war.

Another member of the group expressed his disapproval of such an idea. He thought the United States should not try "to reform the world."

I was not much surprised at this comment. I was quite familiar with such slurs about America's trying "to reform the world." Certain large and powerful newspapers make free use of that phrase. They assume that any use of American influence to solve international problems and to build foundations of world peace is "meddling" with the affairs of other nations; is an attempt to "reform" other peoples. This argument, or assumption, is so often repeated, and yet it represents such illogical thinking, that it should be clearly answered, and I was pleased with the answer the first speaker gave.

"Suppose," he said, "that you and your family lived on a street with a number of other families. Some of these families are poor, others are ignorant, some are actually criminal. There is much disturbance and quarreling on the street, so much that the lives of your children are really in danger. Your impulse might be to move to another street, but you can't do that. You must go on living with those neighbors as long as you and your children and your children's children live. What would you do?"

The speaker answered his own question: "You would try to improve the street. You would try to find out the causes of the trouble. You would cooperate with those of your neighbors who were law-abiding and public-spirited. You would work with them on plans to insure employment for all, and good housing for all, and education for all children on the street. You would support schools, libraries, churches."

"But," continued the speaker, "you wouldn't stop at that. You would realize that there was an immediate problem of protection. So, even while you were trying to 'reform' the street, you would help to organize a strong police force and an efficient fire department."

"And," the speaker concluded, "that is exactly the way the United States should act. We should work with peace-loving countries to remedy the conditions which lead to wars. We should also join with them in forming a world organization strong enough to crack down on aggressors."





# The Story of the Week

## Manpower Lull

There was a lull again last week in the slow movement to do something about the manpower problem. The problem itself continued to be the most crucial one facing the nation, and the critical shortages in farm labor continued to grow.

A few days ago Paul V. McNutt, chairman of the War Manpower Commission, ventured a partial solution to the problem by proposing to "freeze" livestock, dairy, and poultry workers to their jobs. This was to be the first step in a "master plan" for compulsory national service on which WMC has been working for months.

But this program was immediately denounced by labor, management, and farm groups alike. Moreover, it served to call forth a torrent of criticism of the whole confused manpower program so far. The cry of "regimentation" was raised, and at labor's behest, any move for compulsory control over manpower was put on the shelf until further study could be made.

By the first of the year it is expected that an adequate survey of the situation can be finished and plans for national service will again be revived. It is now indicated that there is a strong possibility of compulsory registration of women at that time.

## News Monopoly?

Since August, the Associated Press, largest news-gathering agency in the country, has been on trial as an illegal monopoly. Last week the AP filed its answer to federal charges.

Thurman Arnold's antitrust division of the Department of Justice brought suit when the AP refused membership to Marshall Field's newly published Chicago Sun. The AP is a non-profit, cooperative organization, and new members can be admitted only by majority vote. Its members can reject any newspaper at will, even though it can pay for its share of the service.



**MOUNTAINTOP VIGIL.** Gracefully skimming over the snow-covered tips of Alaska's mountain ranges, these Royal Canadian Air Force Kittyhawk fighters keep a constant watch. With the U. S. Air Forces they patrol the mountains to prevent surprise attacks by the Japanese.

This, the Justice Department believes, is a "conspiracy in restraint of trade," and therefore illegal under the Sherman and Clayton antitrust acts. It charges that AP members refused their service to the Chicago Sun because it competes with a member publication.

AP answers that its policies cannot restrict competition, since there are two other full-fledged news agencies in the country, the United Press and International News Service. It also claims that if the government dictates AP membership policies, freedom of the press will be denied.

## Labor Goes to College

In an effort to promote better relations between labor and management, Harvard University has announced the awarding of 14 fellowships to trade union representatives. These men, selected by the unions themselves, will spend nine months at Harvard, studying the business and economic problems which affect labor's place in the industrial scheme.

It was the union leaders who first

advanced the idea. Recognizing that labor and management should work together for the greatest good of both, they also saw that many of their key workers did not fully understand the basic problems industrial leaders were facing. After long consultations with the University, they worked out the present plan.

The union men will have no formal requirements to meet, either of previous education or of performance while at Harvard. The 14 men were chosen for their leadership ability, their work for labor and their general intelligence. Their time will be spent in discussions led by labor and business leaders and in individual study.

At a time when the stability of labor-management relations is of vital importance to America's war effort, it is believed that these students can provide a strong influence for co-operation instead of dissension.

## Coffee Rationing

The severe shortage of coffee in the United States was curiously highlighted last week. From the Brazilian consulate in New York City, representatives of the greatest coffee growing nation in the world were forced to send an SOS to a nearby wholesale house, pleading for "at least a couple pounds of coffee!"

It is precisely this situation that has made necessary the coffee rationing program which goes into effect at midnight, November 28. From that time on consumers over 15 years of age will be allowed one pound every five weeks—an amount sufficient to make about one cup of beverage a day. The original shortage caused by lack of shipping has become so aggravated by hoarding (per capita consumption figures have recently climbed from 13 to 16 pounds a year) that rationing is now the only fair solution.

Meanwhile the American public has been asked to ration itself voluntarily to two and a half pounds of meat per person per week, until official rationing can go into effect about the first of the year. However, meat rationing will not be felt as seriously as coffee, for fish and poultry are exempt. Moreover, two and a half pounds (40 ounces) of meat a week loom up as a feast compared to the slim rations

in Europe—31 ounces a week (of all kinds of meat) in Britain, 12½ in Germany, 8.8 in France, 5½ in Sweden, none in Greece.

## Salary Ceiling

In 1943, even President Roosevelt won't be making more than \$25,000 a year. Under a new order issued by Economic Stabilization Director Byrnes, no one in the United States will be allowed an income over this figure after federal income taxes and certain other deductions have been made. Legally, the President's salary is fixed at \$75,000, but the Chief Executive has volunteered to come under the ruling.

Incomes will be kept down through wage control and taxation. The War Labor Board will control the salaries of all persons making less than \$5,000, while the Treasury Department will regulate those incomes above \$5,000. Both will have power to approve increases or decreases in individual salaries, except the ones given for merit, length of service, or promotions.

Taxation will absorb the excess on incomes over \$25,000. Director Byrnes plans to tie wage control in with the system of price regulation. In other words, no wage increases will be permitted where these might make



**COFFEE RATIONING** announcement led to a buying wave which quickly depleted the grocers' stocks. The rationing takes effect November 28, allowing every person over 15 one pound every five weeks.

it necessary to raise the price ceilings on any goods or services.

Besides helping to avoid inflation, the Treasury Department estimates that the new income control will give the government an added \$180,000,000 annually.

## Broken Promises

Last week the exact status of prisoners in World War II was still uncertain. The controversy which began with the shackling of prisoners at Dieppe (see THE AMERICAN OBSERVER for October 19) has still not been settled, and new complications have arisen with Japan's announcement that she would severely punish several U. S. flyers who fell into Japanese hands after the bombing of Tokyo last April.

If the Axis nations are actually mistreating United Nations prisoners, or using them as slave labor, it means that Hitler and his henchmen have chosen to add one more to their long list of broken promises. It means they have violated the 1935 Geneva Convention, an international agreement concerning the humane treat-

## POLL OF STUDENT OPINION

This is the second of a series of student polls appearing in THE AMERICAN OBSERVER and the Weekly News Review. They will reach more than a million senior high school students throughout the nation and should reflect national youth opinion.

Suggestions to Instructor: Please conduct the poll in all classes within a week of the time the paper is received. Read questions to class. Collect answers. Have answers tabulated by student committee. Have totals for each question added, then send results of the poll to THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C. Reports should be received in this office not later than November 18. This will give us time to count ballots and announce results in our issue of November 30.

### 1. Which of these statements best expresses your opinion?

(Answer this question by writing (a), (b), or (c) on your answer sheet.)

(a) A second front against Germany should be opened at once.

(b) A second front should not be opened at this time.

(c) The question of a second front should be left to the military authorities.

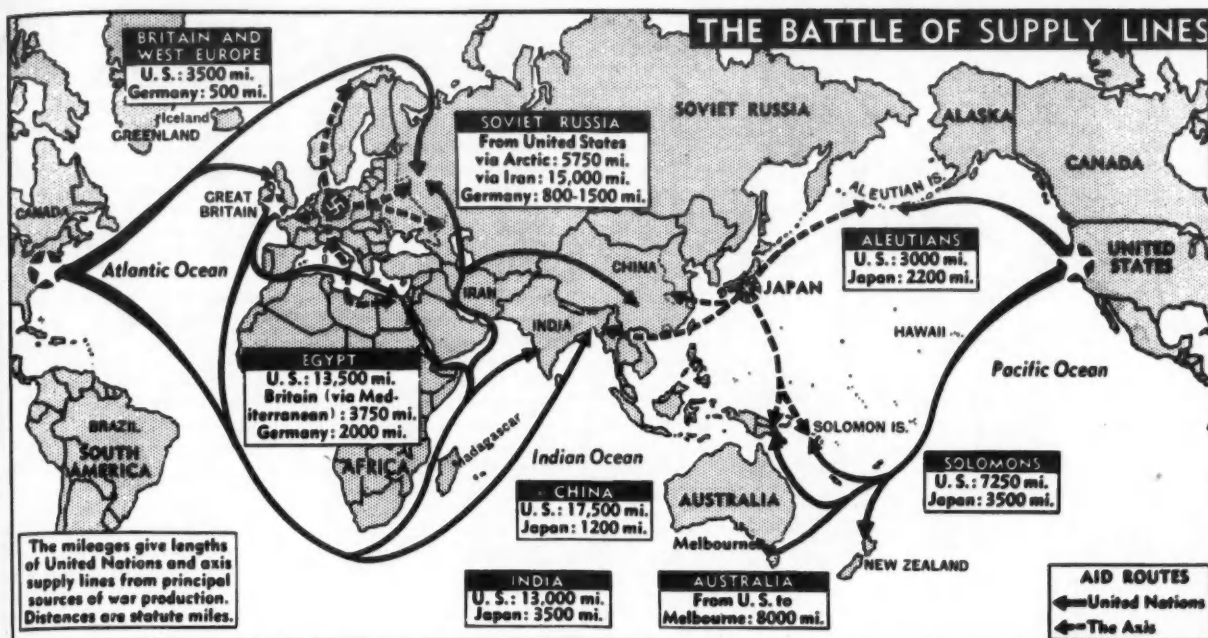
### 2. As a war measure, should there be a \$25,000 limit on individual incomes?

### 3. Should there be a permanent limit on individual incomes; in peace as well as in wartime?

### 4. Should we begin now to study postwar problems, such as the means of making peace permanent, or should we wait for that until the war has been won? (Answer "Begin now," or "Wait.")

### 5. Is it your present belief that, if we win the war, the United States should enter a world organization comparable to the League of Nations?





ment of war prisoners which dates back originally to 1864.

The Geneva Convention provides that every prisoner of war is to be given the same treatment and physical comforts as his rank would merit in the army of which he is a prisoner. Thus Japanese officers in our hands are paid the same monthly allotment as is received by American officers of the same rank, even though this sum is many times what they were receiving from their own army. From this money they must pay for their own food and lodging.

Captured enlisted men must be provided with food, clothing, and shelter as good as the captor soldiers receive, and they may be required to do only a reasonable amount of work in return.

### Revolt in India

It would be a mistake to assume that disturbances and riots in India have ceased. It is true that reports of these daily disturbances are now seen infrequently in our daily newspapers, but that is only because these disorders have become commonplace. Since they now happen so regularly and are no longer sensational news, correspondents do not bother to send detailed reports concerning them to their papers.

Also, a change has been noted in the character of India's internal revolt against British rule. The mass riots and demonstrations which occurred in August immediately after the arrest of Gandhi and other Congress

party leaders have partly given way to individual acts of sabotage. The independence movement has been driven underground, and is much more difficult to deal with than when it operated openly.

It is not at all uncommon, for example, to find railroad tracks cut by blowtorches or acid, and there is evidence that this sort of organized sabotage at night by small groups is definitely on the increase.

### The Palestine Experiment

Last week marked the 25th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration calling for the establishment of a national home for Jewish people in Palestine. Since that time, half a million Jewish immigrants have gone to Palestine to build cities and establish farms. Tel Aviv, the modern city built on a desert wasteland, has become a marvel of achievement, with its industries, schools, libraries, and hospitals. It has a population of 175,000.

But if the last quarter of a century has its record of achievement, of making the "desert blossom like the rose," it also has its tragic side. The Arabs residing in Palestine have not always welcomed the Jewish immigrants and there have been numerous clashes between the two racial groups. British efforts to reconcile the differences between the two groups have been largely unsuccessful. In a sense, the Palestine problem is similar to that of racial and religious conflicts elsewhere in the world. As the New York Times comments:

What we have to hope for is the spread of mutual tolerance, not alone between Jew and non-Jew but among all the religious or racial groups that have been at odds in Europe and the Near East so long and so tragically. Tolerance has ceased to be a matter of sentiment and become a stern necessity. Civilization itself is at stake in the coming peace. Minorities—and who is not in a minority at one time or another?—must learn to reason together or death will walk the world again. The Jewish and Arab peoples in Palestine cannot fight out their differences, any more than other groups of hundreds of thousands or of millions can do. They have much to give each other and the world. If wisdom prevails, the Palestine experiment can flourish in goodwill after the war planes are grounded and the guns are silent.

### War Misinformation

After his return from the Pacific, Hanson Baldwin (see page 2) reported that when the early official news in this country about the Battle of the Solomons was broadcast to the

Pacific, "it was so different in many instances from the actual situation that the men who did the job laughed at our own announcements."

This incident brings into focus an important problem now facing the nation—the problem of war misinformation. There have been numerous instances when ship sinkings and battle losses were not announced for weeks; there have been other cases when one story was told at the time of the incident, only to be repudiated or revised many days later. There is a growing feeling that the Army and Navy are carrying the idea of military secrecy too far, and that they are undermining public confidence in the information that is released.

That this opinion exists on a large scale was confirmed recently by a nationwide poll, which showed that a large majority of the public believes that war news is doctored up and that much information which has no military value is concealed from the people "for their own good." The poll revealed further that the public strongly resents this situation.

It should be noted that it is the Army and Navy—not OWI and Elmer Davis—which are responsible for whatever censorship and distortion actually exist. At any rate, it is a problem which must be dealt with courageously, for, as Roscoe Drummond comments in the *Christian Science Monitor*, "it is unhealthy for the American people to believe that their government distrusts them, and it is unhealthy for the American people to believe that the grim news of war is being edited and timed to protect them."

### Biggest Pipe Line

The world's biggest pipe line—the new 24-inch tube stretching from Texas to Illinois—is due to be completed next month, but that will not be the end of it. The War Production Board has just decided that enough steel can be spared to extend the line eastward to the metropolitan areas of New York City and Philadelphia.

Work crews have laid the 530 miles of pipe line which are nearly completed, at the record rate of five miles a day. Ahead of them lies the 857 miles to be covered by the new link. When the entire line is completed it will furnish the east with 300,000 barrels of oil a day—oil which cannot now be carried for lack of ocean tankers and railroad tank cars.

### News Quiz of the Week

(Answers on page 8, column 4)

1. These three men—King Boris, King George II, and President Ubico—were all in the news last week. Can you identify them?
2. What is the salary limit which President Roosevelt has set for the duration of the war?
3. Action on the bill to draft 18- and 19-year-olds has been delayed because of the lack of a quorum in the House. What is a quorum?
4. True or false: The WAACS receive the same pay as men in the regular Army.
5. If you heard of an American combat vessel named the "Salmon," you would know that it was what kind of a ship?
6. There have been reports recently that Nazi submarines are refueling at the Canary Islands. Who owns these islands?
7. The Army at the present time numbers something over 4,250,000. Do you know about how large the Navy is?
8. And while we're on the subject, how large are the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard?
9. President Ríos of Chile canceled his official visit to this country because of the recent speech by Sumner Welles. What other South American official is making an official visit here early in November?



Just so he won't blow away  
WERNER IN CHICAGO SUN

10. We hear a lot about the stiff taxes we are going to have to pay on this year's incomes. Would you say the national income on which we will pay these taxes is nearest (a) four billion; (b) 24 billion; (c) 94 billion; or (d) 114 billion?

11. What African country has a capital named after a former American president?

12. How does our "Burma Road" to Alaska compare in length to the original Burma Road from Lashio to Kunming, China?

### The American Observer

Published weekly throughout the year (except two issues in December and three issues from the middle of August to the first week in September) by the CIVIC EDUCATION SERVICE, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.

Subscription price, single copy, \$2 a calendar year. In clubs of five or more for class use, \$1 a school year or 50 cents a semester. For a term shorter than a semester the price is 3 cents a week.

Entered as second-class matter Sept. 15, 1931, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

**Civic Education Service Publications**  
The American Observer  
Weekly News Review  
The Junior Review  
The Young Citizen  
The Civic Leader

**EDITORIAL BOARD**  
Francis L. Bacon  
Charles A. Beard  
Walter E. Myer, Editor  
Executive Editor  
Andre de Perrey  
Senior Editor  
Paul D. Miller  
Associate Editors  
J. Hubert Anderson  
Anne Crutcher  
Harold G. Moulton  
David S. Muzzey  
Managing Editor  
Clay Coss  
Art Editor  
Kernit Johnson



JAPANESE PRISONERS are treated according to the conventions of war. These are prisoners on Guadalcanal.







# Great Stakes Involved in African War

(Concluded from page 1)

The most direct relation between the two fronts is in shipping. As everyone knows, one of the most serious problems confronting the United Nations is the lack of adequate shipping to supply the far-flung battle fronts which they are maintaining. And the Mediterranean constitutes one of the great bottlenecks. The British and Americans cannot at present use the Mediterranean to supply the African, Middle Eastern, and Russian fronts because control of that great inland sea is largely in the hands of the Axis. Consequently, we must use the longer, but safer route, all the way around the tip of Africa. This is a distance of some 14,000 miles, requiring weeks in making supplies available to those crucial war theaters.

Moreover, much shipping is now used in this long journey which could be available for other routes if control of the Mediterranean were wrested from the Axis. For example, many of the merchant ships which now ply the waters all the way around the Cape of Good Hope could be used in the routes to the Solomons, to supply our forces there, if the shorter Mediterranean route could be opened. It takes only about half as long for ships to reach their destinations through the Mediterranean as around Africa. In other words, half as much shipping could carry the same amount of supplies as are now being used. Nor is that all. The naval escorts now tied up on the African route could be greatly reduced in number if the Mediterranean were opened.

## A Second Front?

Control of the Mediterranean is only one of the stakes involved in the present campaign in North Africa. Many military strategists believe that we could more easily open a second front in Europe by way of North Africa than through western Europe. If Rommel were ousted from Africa, the United Nations could establish bases from which to bomb the continent of Europe. Bases could be established from which an invasion of the Italian or Balkan peninsulas might be undertaken.

Success in North Africa would also reinforce the Allied position throughout the Middle East. One of the greatest dangers of Rommel's latest drive in Egypt, which took him to the very gates of Alexandria, was that the Axis forces were in a position to break through to the Middle East, to join hands with the German armies coming down through Russia, and to destroy our forces in the Middle East. If the United Nations are now able to drive Rommel out of Egypt and Libya, that danger will be eliminated.

There is another important stake involved in the present struggle in North Africa. As the map on the opposite page shows, much of the African continent is now under the control of the Vichy government of France. Tunisia, Algeria, and French Morocco, along the Mediterranean coast; a large area along the western coast of the continent; these are among the important holdings of Vichy.

If the British can drive Rommel from the territories directly held by the Axis in North Africa, the United Nations will be in a much better

position to deal with the Vichy French throughout Africa. How much help these French-held territories of Africa are now giving Hitler is one of the unknown factors of the war. There have been reports, for example, that the port of Dakar is used as a base for German submarines to attack Allied shipping. It is almost certain that these French territories are now supplying the German

there are many materials vital to the war effort. Materials such as manganese and vanadium used in the manufacture of steel; tin and zinc, rubber, and many others are found in abundance in Africa.

The Union of South Africa, one of the British dominions, is rapidly becoming one of the world's important centers of heavy industry. Huge blast furnaces and plants have been

Milan. Thus, the supplying of Rommel has not been a simple matter for the Nazis.

Before the latest offensive was launched, the British and American airmen also bombed the supply bases of Rommel in Africa. Tripoli and Benghazi, the two main ports of arrival for Axis supplies, have been subjected to fierce bombardment. The Axis trucks which carry supplies from the ports have been raided repeatedly. All these steps were preliminary to the main offensive.

## Part of Broader Strategy

It is possible that the offensive in North Africa is but a part of a broader strategy for the control of Africa. There is a possibility that the United Nations may soon strike from other directions. Many thousands of fighting French, British, and American soldiers are said to be in Nigeria, the Cameroons, and Equatorial Africa. At the proper time, they may attack Rommel's forces from the south.

There is also the possibility that the United Nations will seek to gain a foothold on western Africa by launching an attack upon Dakar, from land and sea. The United Nations have built airfields in Liberia and the neighboring land of Sierra Leone—fields which might be used for attacks upon Dakar. The port of Freetown, farther south, has been equipped to repair and refuel naval vessels.

Perhaps none of these plans will be carried out. For one thing, the Vichy French have some 200,000 troops and a fair-sized navy ready for action at Dakar. The British have already tried once, unsuccessfully, to storm the port. Moreover, the distances involved in reaching Rommel's forces from the south and west are great. It is some 3,000 miles from Dakar to that part of Egypt which is controlled by Rommel's armies. Allied troops in Equatorial Africa would have to travel more than 500 miles through jungle and over desert in order to reach the fighting front in the north.

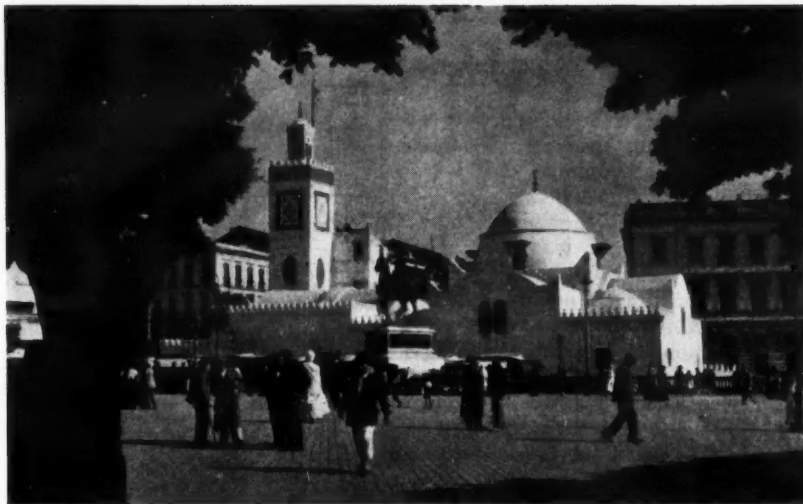
Thus, it can be seen that the stakes involved in the present campaign in North Africa are considerable. If the drive against Rommel succeeds, it will indeed be a major victory for the United Nations. It may well be the turning point in the war, for it will open avenues of further offensives which now remain closed. The next few weeks, therefore, will be of the greatest importance to the cause of the United Nations.

## References

- "They Used to Call it the Dark Continent." *Rotarian*, August 1942, pp. 22-23.
- "The African Way?" (Map) *Time*, October 12, 1942, pp. 28, 31.
- "Battle of Egypt." A feature appearing almost every week in *Time*, often with maps.
- "Dakar, Key to Africa," by E. Wright. *Harpers*, December 1941, pp. 22-29.
- "Africa—Dark, Fabulous Continent." *Fortune*, November 1941, pp. 88-99.

## Pronunciations

Benghazi—ben-gah'zee  
Dakar—dah-kahr'  
Dieppe—dee-ep'  
El Alamein—el' ah-lah-mane'  
Genoa—jen'oe-ah  
Sierra Leone—see-air'ah leh-oan'eh  
Tel Aviv—tel' ah-veev'  
Qattara—kah-tah'rah



Scene in Algiers, in the French colony of Algeria

armies with many of the foodstuffs and war materials they desperately need.

In North Africa are found an almost endless supply of products vital to war. From Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria, together with Italian Libya, come such items as wheat, barley, olives, citrus fruits, peanuts, and many other foodstuffs. Phosphate to fertilize Europe's farms comes largely from the Vichy possessions in North Africa. North Africa also produces more than 4,000,000 tons of iron ore a year, together with large amounts of lead, zinc, and antimony.

As a matter of fact, the French possessions in North Africa include

erected in that area to process the minerals from its own mines as well as those from other parts of Africa. Since South Africa has large deposits of iron ore and coal, it is the natural center for heavy industry on that continent.

One of the great advantages hitherto enjoyed by the Axis in Africa is the shorter supply lines which must be maintained to Marshal Rommel. Troops and weapons and foodstuffs have been sent from Italian ports across the narrow stretches of the Mediterranean. The Allies have had to use the longer route. But they have kept a steady flow of supplies to the African front and now seem to



A camp of the Fighting French Army in the desert

some of the most valuable territory on the continent. A large portion of Africa's fertile land, in addition to vital mineral deposits, is found in this region. More than a million Frenchmen have gone to North Africa to live. No other African possessions have attracted so many Europeans from the mother countries.

While most of the wealth of Africa is centralized in the northern region, and while much of the continent is made up of jungle and desert, it is a fact that throughout the continent

have established air superiority and at least equality in tanks and other equipment.

For months, the British have done everything possible to interrupt the shipment of supplies and transport to Africa. From Malta, the most heavily bombed spot in the world, they have attacked and sunk shipping from Italy to African ports. More recently, the RAF has intensified its raids upon Italian ports from which supplies have been sent, such as Genoa, and such industrial centers as Turin and



# Education Week - 1942

(Concluded from page 1)

in a Democracy at War. This thoughtful report calls upon teachers to keep in mind the importance of their present work. If they are called into the Army, they will, of course, serve their country in that capacity. But if no immediate and urgent demands come to them from the outside, they should stick to their jobs, for education in a period of war and turmoil has a tremendous job to do. Teachers are needed just as farmers, factory workers, and soldiers are. They have an important work to do in seeing to it not only that morale is kept high but in providing an education which will strengthen the nation in both war and peace. The report says:

## Unequaled Tasks

"At the present time many immediate and emergency tasks are recognized by the American people. Effective action on them is necessary now. But there is danger that other tasks of equal importance may be sidetracked because they are commonly thought of in terms of future rather than of immediate values. Education has important values of both sorts. It has many direct contributions to make toward winning the war and building morale. It also must start today—too much time has already been lost—to prepare for the critical period of postwar world building. A school generation with poor health habits, vague ideas about democracy, inaccurate information, inefficient study methods, warped characters, and antisocial attitudes represents a lost battle—a defeat probably as devastating as several Pearl Harbors, because it retards the winning of the war and handicaps the country as long as that school generation lives. . . .

"... All-out efforts to win the war will be but palliative unless the signing of the peace treaty finds all countries, and particularly the democracies, with well-considered programs for the reconstruction period and for an enduring peace well under way. The number of persons who will be immediately affected when war stops—unnumbered millions in all parts of the earth—cannot be expected to do nothing for years or even months while our leaders formulate plans for reconstruction and permanent peace.

The mere numbers involved make it obvious that plans must be drawn now and revised in the light of changing conditions. We must win the war and prepare for peace simultaneously. Here is the great challenge to our statesmen and to our educational leaders.

"Teachers have important roles in helping adults and children to get the understandings and attitudes that will be needed as we build for peace."

It is commonly recognized, as we have said, that there must not be "business as usual" in the schools. In many ways, the work of schools all over the nation is being changed so that the students may play a more active part in winning the war. Health programs are being emphasized so that the young people may be strong for either war or peace. Much direct war work is being done in the schools, such as the buying and selling of stamps and bonds and the collection of scarce materials. Boys who may expect soon to enter the services are taking pre-induction courses which will fit them for skilled work in the Army, the Navy, or the Air Forces. Pre-aviation courses are very popular. Mathematics is being emphasized as a preparation for air navigators and for many kinds of highly skilled mechanical work.

To encourage the preparation of youth for duties in the armed forces or in war industries, the Victory Corps is being organized. It has been set up in about 2,000 high schools.

## A Neglected Duty

All this, of course, is important. But there is something that is far more important and far more neglected, and that is the political training of American youth. About a quarter of a century ago, we had a war to fight and we won it. We developed the military and industrial forces required for victory, and victory came to us. But we and the people of the other victor nations did not understand the problems of maintaining peace. We failed dismally at the job of establishing stability in the world and of doing the things required in order that peace might last.

As a result of this failure, we are back again in a war very much worse than the one a quarter of a century ago. Civilization is endangered immeasurably more than it was then. We are far worse off in every way than we were when we were in the midst of the other war. And the trouble, let it be remembered, was not that we lacked military preparedness, but that we lacked an understanding of the political and economic and international problems with which we had to deal.

Will the same thing happen again after we win the present war? The answer commonly given is that it will not happen. But what reason is there to think it will not? The same problems that confronted us then will be



MURRAY FROM THREE LIONS  
The war has given us a new appreciation of geography

before us again when the war is over; only they will appear in tenfold magnitude and complexity. If the present war is not followed by chaos and then by further wars which will destroy our civilization, it will be because we act more wisely now than we did then. And we will act more wisely only if we are better informed and more practiced in disciplined thinking and in the thoroughgoing study of the problems we will have to meet.

Who will acquire the facts, who will become well informed, who will have practice in disciplined thinking about these problems? Not the eight or nine million soldiers who are soon to be in the field. They will be too busy with their own work. Probably not the men and women who are working in the factories and on the farms. They, too, are busy. It is likely that they will give somewhat more thought to the great problems of war and reconstruction than men and women on the average gave 25 years ago. But they do not have the opportunity to engage in systematic study.

## Youth's Opportunity

But the youth of the nation is already mobilized. The young men and women of the country, more than six million of them, are in our senior high schools. Their job is to study whatever most needs to be studied that the nation may be saved and that peace may be preserved. They have the opportunity to study under guidance. They are not interfered with by occupational duties. Here is the best hope of the nation during the generation that is to come.

But if this opportunity of youth is seized and used, it means that much time must be given in the schools to these studies of war and reconstruction. Here is a great challenge to the schools today.

The third problem we spoke of is that of attitude. What is the answer to the query, "What's the use to pursue an education in a time of war and the unsettlement which comes with war?" One answer which may be given is this: The need for leadership during the coming generation is so great that no person has a right to waste a single minute which might be employed in preparing himself for effective service to society. Remember this: The war is sifting the population with minute care. It is separating the strong, the healthy, the

vigorous from the rest of the population and is taking all the best and finest of youth and putting them into the armed services. We know that many of these youths will not come back. Others who do come back will be broken in body or personality. The loss of human resources here and throughout the world will be utterly staggering. The next generation at best must get along somehow after being shorn of much of the flower of its youth.

## Effective Citizenship

This may have a devastating influence upon the future of civilization. Many believe that the complete breakdown of statesmanship in the democracies of the world which followed the First World War was a result largely of the fact that so many who might ordinarily have been the leaders of that generation died on the battlefields of the war. This was one of the great tragedies of that war.

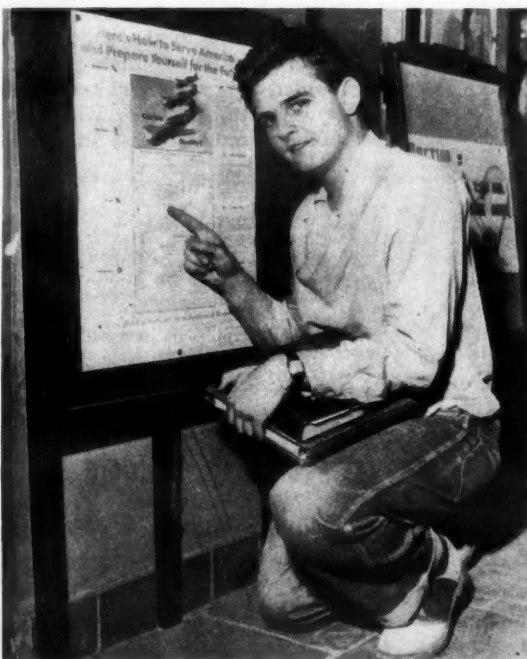
There is only one thing that we can do about all this. That is to insist that not one ounce of energy in preparation for effective citizenship be lost by those who remain at home. Even if one is to go into the war later, let him, while the days of preparation still remain, build as great a competence as possible. Upon our ability to develop a great reservoir of competence and public spirit may depend the future of American democracy and the fate of civilization throughout the world.

## References

- "Education of Freeman," by S. Barr. *New Republic*, August 31, 1942, pp. 248-250.
- "Education and World Conflict," by C. A. Dykstra. *Yale Review*, September 1942, pp. 128-144.
- "Education and Independence," by D. Thompson. *Ladies Home Journal*, September 1942, pp. 6+.
- "Schools in War." *Newsweek*, September 28, 1942, p. 60.

## Answers to News Quiz

1. Boris—King of Bulgaria; George II—King of Greece (in exile); Ubico—President of Guatemala. 2. \$25,000 with extra allowances for federal taxes, insurance, etc. 3. A quorum is the number of members who must be present before business can be transacted. 4. True. 5. Submarine. (All U. S. submarines are named after fish.) 6. Spain. 7. Nearly 1,000,000. 8. Marines—200,000; Coast Guard—110,000. 9. President Del Rio of Ecuador. 10. (d). 11. Monrovia, capital of Liberia, was named for President Monroe. 12. The Alcan Highway is 1,671 miles long; the Burma Road was 712 miles long.



COURTESY LOS ANGELES TIMES

Many college and high school students are entering the services